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AGENDA: URBAN ISSUES

AG Activities

AG RESPONDS TO SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Since mid-December, members of the Attorney General's staff and a core group of mediators have provided assistance to the Medford High School community in the aftermath of student disturbance that resulted in the temporary closing of Medford High School. Working together they were able to restore safety and calm and assist in reopening the high school. The crisis intervention team of 38 professionally trained volunteer mediators worked with students and staff to reduce tensions and to lay the groundwork for healing and a more positive school environment.

On December 10, when word of the Medford High School disturbance reached the Attorney General's office it was decided that its Student Conflict Resolution Experts (SCORE) program would be an appropriate program to offer the City of Medford and school officials.

The AG's office briefed the school committee on SCORE and why it worked, and recommended diversity/awareness training

for faculty and administrators. The school committee was very receptive toward SCORE and the AG's recommendations. Together the AG's office and the school committee planned a general strategy for the week to follow.

Over the course of the weekend, the AG's office concentrated its efforts on direct communication with key administrators and school committee members who were to play an integral role in restoring safety and reopening the school. Alice Comack, from the Somerville Community Corporation's Mediation Program and head of the SCORE program at Somerville High School, agreed to head up the mediation effort assisted by a leadership team of Art Steward from the Department of Education and Melissa Brodrick of the Massachusetts Association of Mediation Programs. Kerry Doherty, Special Project Coordinator in the AG's office, served as staff to the leadership mediation team, and PPB Chief, Barbara Anthony, continued as the Attorney General's personal representative and coordinator of the overall effort.

(continued on page 3)

To The Citizens of Massachusetts:

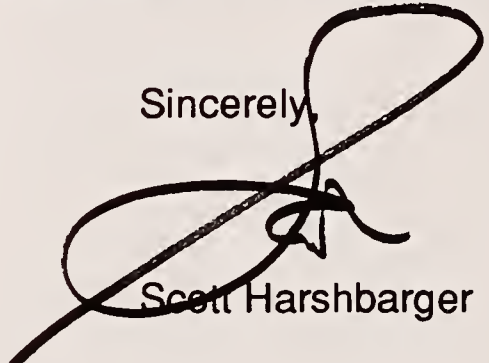
Our cities are in danger of being destroyed and we as a society must prevent this destruction. As Attorney General I am committed to making a difference. I have pledged, as a top priority, to using the resources of my office to improve the quality of urban life.

Urban issues take different forms across the state. It may be guns and gangs in some cities -- school violence and domestic violence in others. Each community must address its issues differently. Therefore, ~~my office has held~~, and continues to hold, educational conferences: the Mayor of Fitchburg has developed a "healthy neighborhood coalition"; the police in New Bedford are educating children about drug abuse; the city of Taunton is addressing the problems of domestic violence and alcohol abuse; and the city of Gloucester has started a phone bank in an effort to crack down on the problem of drug abuse. All of these efforts must be rewarded and shared to continue to thrive.

These examples are only a small portion of what is being done around the state to clean up our cities. Ultimately, each of us must search for our own answer to the underlying problems in our neighborhoods, but we also should be aware of how others are facing their adversities. This newsletter is a way to share our triumphs and pitfalls. I urge you to contribute to the success of this newsletter by submitting your group's solutions to urban crises.

Thank you for your suggestions and comments. I hope you find AGenda: Urban Issues both interesting and informative.

Sincerely,



Scott Harshbarger

ag activities	interesting individuals	community programs	announcements
1-5	6	7 -11	12

As the students began to return to school in staggered sessions, the AG's office organized small discussion groups. In these groups mediators, acting as facilitators and counselors, provided an environment in which students could air their concerns and grievances, talk about the events that had taken place, and discuss racial issues and other concerns that surfaced as a result of the violence.

Before embarking on these efforts to reduce tensions, the AG's office obtained the following commitments from the superintendent:

- 1) the AG's office had the authorization to deal directly with the entire student body, rather than sharing that responsibilities with other agencies;
- 2) school administrators would listen to and consider recommendations for positive change that were generated by the mediator-led discussion groups.

The mediators played their most crucial role in conducting a mediation between a large group of African American and Caucasian students and their friends who had been involved in or witnessed the original melee. This critical mediation and the agreements that were struck among the students to resolve their differences in a non-violent way were crucial to permitting the school to reopen safely.

During this critical week, the office gave students a glimpse into non-violent conflict resolution as a way to resolve differences that was superior to old methods. The office was also able to put into play a mechanism for students to communicate with faculty and administrators about students' recommendations for positive change at the school. The Attorney General's office made several recommendations after their experience in Medford including scheduling diversity awareness training for faculty, administrators, and school workers.

Currently the office has two professional mediators on site at Medford High School while it is in the process of setting up a permanent SCORE program. The mediators are playing a critical role in resolving violent tendencies and in pushing forward the planning and recommendation mechanism that grew out of the small group discussions following the crisis.

AG VISITS FALL RIVER TO DISCUSS ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS

The Attorney General held a state-wide conference last June to emphasize the need for local leaders to focus on urban violence. As a follow-up to the conference, he has travelled around the state to keep himself informed about local efforts addressing urban violence.

This winter, the Attorney General spent a day in Fall River on February 18th. He visited with the Bristol County Chapter of Mother's Against Drunk Driving, the Portuguese Business Association, and Mayor Mitchell and other community leaders to discuss crime and urban violence.

His address to the MADD Chapter of Bristol County included praise for its valiant effort at curbing the tragic mix of drinking and driving. He cited a report released by the Office of the Commissioner of Probation and the Bureau of Substance Abuse within the Department of Public Health. According to the report, arraignments for driving under the influence of alcohol decreased 27% from 1986-1991. He asked that clear messages be sent to our young people regarding not only drinking and driving, but also irresponsible use of alcohol under any conditions. Finally, the AG urged the group to keep up its important work and pledged his support for the efforts.

(Fall River cont.)

The second stop while in Fall River was the Portuguese Business Association (PBA). PBA is a group that was founded more than ten years ago to represent Portuguese businessmen in the Greater Fall River area.

Addressing these business leaders, the AG outlined two priorities in the office: fraud and urban violence. He told the group that fraud in the Commonwealth is not headline grabbing but, nevertheless it is crippling small businesses, costing us jobs, and diminishing the impact of important government programs. He outlined the office's responsibility for prosecuting workers' compensation and insurance fraud, unemployment compensation fraud, and medicaid fraud. He described two of his initiatives: to follow up on an urban violence conference by meeting with conference attendees to help set up new strategies for combatting violence and challenging community leaders to support violence prevention programs.

In his meeting with the Mayor and other community leaders the AG was impressed by the coordination that exists among Fall River officials. He encouraged the group to continue the dialogue and to meet regularly to discuss and propose a city-wide plan to address the problem of urban violence.

WORCESTER URBAN VIOLENCE FORUM

As part of his ongoing effort across the state, the Attorney General facilitated a Worcester Urban Violence Forum sponsored by the Worcester Democratic City Committee. The conference was held at the Marriott Hotel and aired live on Newswatch 3 (WGMC-TV3). Jerry Gibbs from WGMC introduced the panel and acted as moderator for the panel.

The audience included city committee members, key business leaders and representatives from neighborhood groups. The conference consisted of a panel discussion with audience participation. Harshbarger asked questions of the panelists, made comments and, microphone in hand, moved through the audience of more than one hundred.

Panelists included Mayor Jordan Levy and Police Chief Edward Gardella, Donald Cummings, local president of the International Brotherhood of Police, and many other city officials. The central topic for discussion -- How is Worcester as a community going to deal with violence and specifically what can each component of our community do to deter violence and begin to address its underlying causes?

The following topics were covered by the panel:

- Business and/or Economy
- Youth Violence and Schools
- Courts and Law Enforcement
- Family and Peer Support

In his closing statement, the AG stated it is his hope -- and challenge to all -- that the night not be a one night show followed by a return to business as usual. He urged participants to use it as a springboard for an effort to bring everyone together to decide what the problems are in Worcester and how to produce a plan of action to solve those problems. He also encouraged other cities to take the bold step to hold a similar public forum to address their communities' concerns and plans to curtail violence.

CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE & DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

The Attorney General's office sponsored "Project Alliance: Preventing Violence and Drug Abuse in the Schools," on Wednesday, March 3, 1993, at the John F. Kennedy Library, Boston.

Approximately 300 representatives from the law enforcement and education professions attended the conference, which focused on violence prevention programs in the schools and dealing with drugs and weapons in the schools.

Project Alliance, a cooperative program between school systems and law enforcement, was initiated by Harshbarger in 1987 when he was Middlesex District Attorney. The goal of Project Alliance is to establish a cooperative relationship between law enforcement and educators enabling them to find pro-active solutions to the problems of substance abuse and violence among our school aged population.

The conference highlighted a segment entitled, "Drugs and Weapons in the Schools: Search and Seizure since TLO." The segment was delivered by Jeffrey Abramson, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

For further information about Project Alliance and similar efforts in your county, contact Norah Wylie, Assistant Attorney General in the Family & Community Crimes Bureau at (617) 727-2200.

DORCHESTER HIGH STUDENTS BECOME PEER MEDIATORS

On April 26th, Attorney General Harshbarger administered the Oath of Confidentiality to twelve trained Student Conflict Resolution Experts from Dorchester High School. In acknowledgment of their success Harshbarger said, "The leadership all of you will demonstrate as SCORE student mediators will be a model for other schools throughout the Commonwealth. I am confident that through your efforts we will continue to prove to both youths and adults that disputes can be resolved without guns or violence and that, in the end, the best form of public protection is violence prevention."

Our congratulations to the graduates:

Clover Tulloch
Chauncey Rainey
Mardonne Dera
Charles Jones
Anneisha Thompson
Angella Barrett
Meme Jones
Jose Torres
Keisha Gamble
Sabrina Johniken
Tianna Isler
Erica Covil

Dorchester High School is one of the 16 schools which has a SCORE program. The Dorchester program is funded by the Attorney General's office and the Office of Michael Fung, high school zone Superintendent for the Boston Public Schools.

Interesting Individuals

Through the Philanthropic Initiative Inc., an anonymous donor awarded six Massachusetts state residents \$5,000 each for their creativity and leadership ability in the state's neighborhoods.

Peter Karoff, president of the initiative, said the individuals go far beyond their job descriptions, inspiring others and reminding us all that hope and possibility exist.

The fellows receiving the awards were:

FLORENCE ALLEN - of Mattapan, a parent activist in the Boston Schools. Since 1991, she has been office manager at Teens As Community Resources. For a year, Allen has been co-chairwoman of the Citywide Parents Council.

ESTHER CRUZ - of Jamaica Plain, a foster parent since 1981 and trainer of foster parents for the state. She often cares for as many as six foster children at a time in her home. She previously provided day care and was described as a "block mom".

ANGELA PAIGE COOK and JOE COOK - of Roxbury, founders of Paige Academy, an alternative educational child care program in Roxbury based on the seven principles of Kwaanza, an African-based philosophy of life.

RON ARMSTEAD - of Boston, head of the Veterans' Benefit Clearinghouse in Roxbury, which serves Vietnam War veterans. The agency has evolved into a multiservice agency and community development corporation under his leadership, according to the sponsor. Armstead served three years in the US Navy as a hospital corpsman during the Vietnam war.

ALFREDA HARRIS - of Jamaica Plain, director of the John A. Shelburne Community Center in Roxbury. She prepares young African American women athletically and academically for college.

WILLIE HICKS JR. - of Mattapan, a Boston College graduate and football player who directs Big East Athletes Care, which has used 15 athletes and 60 tutors to help elementary and middle school children learn math, science and history.

community programs

the central region...

FITCHBURG

FITCHBURG MAYOR IS MAKING COMMUNITY COALITIONS WORK !

Early in 1991 Mayor Jeffrey A. Bean called together representatives of the police, schools, and social service organizations to discuss the issues of gangs and violence. The group was named the Fitchburg Safe and Healthy Neighborhood Coalition (FSHNC).

The goal of the group was "to promote healthy and safe neighborhoods that produce individual and community well-being through neighborhood empowerment."

Committees with broad areas of interest were established to allow each committee to bring to the full Coalition issues to be worked on.

In January, 1991, the four committees of the coalition met for the first time. They included:

- 1) Health Committee;
- 2) Diversity/Racism/Human Rights;
- 3) Economic Opportunity;
- 4) Public Safety Committee.

In February the Coalition and the Carlisle Education Center (CEC), a program of the Education Development Center, agreed to work together on a long term (3-5 years) basis. The CEC offers Fitchburg a variety of planning, training, and technical assistance services.

Safe Neighborhoods: Affecting Change Forum

An example of this union occurred on June 9, 1992, when the FSHNC co-sponsored with the

Carlisle Education Center a full day forum that provided city, neighborhood and agency leaders the opportunity to explore issues of safe neighborhoods from a common perspective.

The group addressed the dynamics of a safe neighborhood and the key players in maintaining that atmosphere. Guest speakers presented information on existing models, program strategies and implementation approaches that could be adapted for use in Fitchburg.

The group was broken into four focus groups. Each began to develop action plans to affect  change in Fitchburg. The four groups developed the following issues/goals:

- Safety and Police Protection
- Economic Development & Related Issues
- Youth Issues & Needs
- Strengthen Neighborhood Relationships & Structure

Attorney General Harshbarger visited Fitchburg on Monday, May 10th, 1993, and met with the mayor and other members of the Safe & Healthy Neighborhood Coalition. Harshbarger was so impressed with the coalitions he agreed to use them as a model as he travels around the state promoting violence prevention efforts. Kudos to FSHNC!

For further information on the Fitchburg Safe and Healthy Neighborhood Coalition please contact Brian Angus at (508) 342-8617.

the southern region...

NEW BEDFORD

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTES ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN

The New Bedford Police Department is involved in drug education in the New Bedford schools through Public Relations Officer Don Cook.

There are fifteen separate Neighborhood Associations working with citizens to help eliminate drug and other problems in their neighborhoods.

Operation S.T.A.N.D. (Specialized Team Against Neighborhood Disorders) is a specialized unit of the New Bedford Police Department. This unit is comprised of one sergeant and six patrolmen. They work in various neighborhoods to curb gang activity.

This department works closely with the Mayor's Drug-Free Community Partnership helping to educate New Bedford citizens about the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction.

Tours of police headquarters are conducted and children are given a complete tour of the department including the cell area and Communications Division. They are given coloring books depicting the danger of drugs in their lives.

The New Bedford Housing Authority and the New Bedford police are using a grant to allow the police to patrol certain developments that are having drug problems. These projects are patrolled on a 24-hour basis.

Any questions can be directed to Detective Don Cook, at 508-991-6300, ext. 309.

TAUNTON

A CITY MAYOR RESPONDS TO URBAN CRIME

"For young people between the ages of 15 and 24, homicide is the second leading cause of death...The reason I am here and traveling around is because our children are killing each other."

These quotes come from James D. Cox, director of Urban Services at the Boys and Girls clubs. Mr. Cox spoke to the crowd of city officials, parents, police, clergy, and concerned citizens as part of the City's "Taunton Cares" program.

"Taunton Cares" is a community anti-crime and violence education and prevention program developed by Mayor Robert Nunes and District Attorney Paul Walsh. "Cares" is an acronym for Community Awareness Results in Everyone's Safety.

The program kicked off with a forum held on March 24, at the Mulcahey School in Taunton. Five workshops were featured at the event. They addressed neighborhood needs, domestic violence, conflict resolution through mediation, alcohol and drug prevention and Taunton public schools.

The forum was coupled with more than a dozen special events that extended through April 7. Two educational programs a month are also planned for at least a year.

The "Taunton Cares" program aims for everyone to become healthier human beings by becoming more loving parents, better neighbors, mediators not provokers, and chemical free, thereby producing children who are better able to learn and grow to their maximum potential.

Attorney General Harshbarger will be the featured speaker of the Taunton Cares Community Breakfast on Thursday, May 27th at 8:00am at Taunton High School.

For more information on the "Taunton Cares" program contact City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA, 02780, (508) 821-1000.

the northern region...

SAUGUS

BUSINESSES PROMOTE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Saugus Business/Education Collaborative, Inc. has been established to encourage collaboration between the community, particularly the business community, and the public schools (K-12). The collaborative will supplement the educational opportunities and options currently available to their students. As part of this collaborative effort, the following goals have been established:

- to raise public awareness regarding the programs and services currently being provided by the collaborative as well as those being planned;
- to provide opportunities and forums for businessmen, businesswomen, and educators to meet in order to determine and act upon school and business needs and to plan new collaborative efforts;
- to provide community resource based learning experiences for our students;
- to establish, support and seek funding for creative mini-grant programs for innovative school-related programs which are offered in addition to regular school activities.

For further information on the Saugus Business/Education Collaborative, Inc., contact the Saugus Chamber of Commerce, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906.

GLOUCESTER

PHONE BANK DEVELOPED TO CRACK DOWN ON DRUGS

Four years ago Gloucester and the Greater Cape Ann area made an effort to crack down on the problem of drugs in their area by developing the Cape Ann Drop-A-Dime program.

Cape Ann Drop-A-Dime (CADAD) was created by the Mayor's Drug Task Force in 1988 as a program that could empower and enable the citizens of Gloucester and Cape Ann to participate in the movement against drug-related crime in the neighborhoods, streets, schools and place of work and recreation.

Thanks to the Gloucester Prevention Network and its coalitions of involved citizens, community activism and awareness is at an unprecedented level. The third year statistics of this program confirm the public's willingness to confront drug trafficking and related crime.

The third year of Cape Ann Drop-A-Dime's operation saw a 26% increase in tip-line reporting and

a 35% increase in overall calls (including routine queries, operational calls and media calls). This was due, in part, to a high visibility public awareness campaign which featured the "NO DEAL" slogan. Public service announcements, bumper stickers and pay phone stickers carried the message for citizen activism throughout Essex County and beyond. The tip-line passed along reports of alleged criminal activity in 25 Massachusetts cities and towns, 5 states and 3 foreign countries. CADAD worked cooperatively with area police departments as well as with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Coast Guard and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

Deep concern is a common theme expressed by people calling Drop-A-Dime for assistance. Callers fear the destruction of neighborhoods and a society that is wrought by drug-traffickers and the disease of addiction.

For further information on CADAD, please contact Eric Radack, PO Box 1471, Gloucester, MA 01931-1471.

24-HR ANONYMOUS TIPLINE
1-800-660-DIME

the western region...

SPRINGFIELD

COMIC BOOK TEACHES THE EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE

Aleana Laster and her family live in Springfield's inner city and feel the need to be involved in the fight against drugs. Towards that end, they have created a very exciting "comic-book" style, educational magazine for young people. This comic book tells a story about a young woman, Betty Laws, who sees the horror created by drugs and attempts to fight the problem of drugs with her dog "Sniffer". The book uses various educational devices to stimulate group discussion on this topic.

The "Betty Laws Fights Back" comic book offers an extraordinary opportunity for ordinary citizens in the Commonwealth to participate in the fight against drugs. The "Betty Laws" book would be an attractive compliment to any anti-drug teaching course which a school system might offer. The Betty Laws comic book is priced at \$1.95 per copy. The initial plan for the comic book is to be published on a quarterly basis. However, if the response from educational institutions and other consumers is positive, the book may be published more frequently.

"Betty Laws Fights Back" was created and written by Aleana Laster and her four children, Lenise, Song'a, Lisa, and Keith. Ms. Laster is employed by the District Attorney's office as a victim witness advocate and as a coordinator of drug abuse programs. Her experiences offer a wealth of knowledge which translate into the "Betty Laws Fights Back" comic book series.

To receive a copy of the Betty Laws Comic Book contact Laster Productions, P.O. Box 80226, Springfield, MA 01138, or call (413) 783-9277.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

The Attorney General's office hopes this newsletter is both informative and useful. The success of the newsletter depends upon your input. We must join together to combat the problems in our urban areas. We hope to highlight several community programs from around the state in the next issue. If you have an article or information you would like included in our next edition, the deadline for submission is August 15. Contributions to the newsletter can be forwarded to Erin O'Sullivan, Publications Coordinator, Attorney General's Office, One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

the eastern region...

BOSTON

YOUTH GAIN RESPONSIBILITY FROM DEVELOPING LAND

Drumlin Farms Food Project brings together food for area soup kitchens, homeless shelters and farmers' markets that serve low income neighborhoods by tending and harvesting vegetables for the hungry of Boston. The Food Project provides teens from a diversity of backgrounds opportunities to experience a sense of community, gain self esteem, and develop respect for others and for the land.

The heart of the project is youth. In 1992, the first summer of operation, 44 teens were selected from 220 applicants to participate as crew workers and leaders. They came from city neighborhoods and suburban towns bringing with them a rich mixture of educational, economic, and racial backgrounds. Summer workers are divided into four crews for younger teens that are supervised by pairs of older crew leaders. Crew leaders participate in a two week training session before the start of the summer program which focuses on leadership skills, agricultural techniques, team building and first aid.

The essential work of the project is for youth to plant, weed, harvest, and distribute 40,000

pounds of fresh vegetables. Summer farm crews work in the fields four days a week. Integrated into the daily work are special projects such as starting a compost pile; designing and running a stand at a farmers' market; reflecting on an experience using music, writing and art; delivering flowers and vegetables to senior citizens in Lincoln; or field trips to Walden Pond or urban gardens. Crews spend one day a week in community service at shelters or soup kitchens in Boston. Crew members help prepare and serve meals using the vegetables that they have grown, and visit with shelter residents.

The Food Project budget for year one totaled approximately \$145,000. Forty percent of the budget directly covers youth wages, leadership training and education; 34% staff salaries, wages, and benefits; 19% administration; and 7% field operations. Last year the project received support from numerous individuals, the Boston, Hyams, Hayden, Metanois, Stratford, Irving, and Hunt Family Foundations, Church Home Society, and other local churches. To assure the future of this program, they continue to seek additional funding.

INVOLVEMENT

The 1993 growing season is here! The Drumlin Farms Project is looking for volunteers to help plant and harvest vegetables for the hungry.

This year they are contacting potential volunteers earlier because they want to grow 40,000 pounds and will need more help. There is great interest in their work and they want to include you in their 1993 scheduling. This year they are offering the possibility of being trained to lead volunteers or be part of their ongoing once-a-week farm helper program.

The planting begins the week of April 19th and will continue through June. All the planting is done by volunteers. Last year their paid workers took over in July and August. Because of funding difficulties, they will be able to hire fewer teens and may be able to use volunteers in the summer.

All of their fall harvesting is staffed by volunteers also. They need help starting in the end of August and continuing through October 10th.

They plant and harvest on Saturday mornings and on selected weekdays. If you schedule early they will have more flexibility in fitting you in.

To schedule, call Pat Gray at 617-259-8621.

announcements

CONFERENCES

May 20

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF ELDERS & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Attorney General Harshbarger in cooperation with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs & the Disabled Persons Protection Commission will sponsor a statewide elder and people with disabilities conference. The program will offer advocates, attorneys, bankers, health care providers and other service providers practical information regarding the detection of financial exploitation.

Registration Fee: \$40.00

June 9

NON-PROFIT BOARDS: ARE YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING?

The Attorney General's office will present an educational conference for members of non-profit boards in Waltham, MA. The purpose is to take a careful look at some of the challenges that face voluntary leaders in non-profit charitable organizations and to deliver specific advice and suggestions for dealing with them.

Registration Fee: \$20.00

June 24

SECOND ANNUAL URBAN VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The Office of the Attorney General will host the Second Annual Urban Violence Conference in Boston. This year's conference will focus on model programs that are successful in deterring violence. Come learn how to bring these programs to your city. Registration is FREE!

For further information and registration regarding any of the Attorney General's conferences, please contact Sheila Martin, Conference Coordinator, at 617-727-2200.

URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Addressing the pressing issue of violence in our urban communities, the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Health are in the process of creating Massachusetts' first statewide Urban Violence Prevention Resource Directory. Questionnaires have been mailed to both state and private violence prevention programs throughout Massachusetts. Once returned and compiled, the directory, available in late June, will identify these programs, recognize their efforts, encourage networking, and provide models for the creation of new violence prevention programs.

Questionnaires are due to the Office of the Attorney General as soon as possible. Any programs that have not already received a questionnaire and would like to be included in this directory, please contact Nicole Payne at 617-727-2200.

URBAN ISSUES NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoyed the second issue of Attorney General Scott Harshbarger's URBAN NEWSLETTER. If you are aware of someone we have overlooked on our mailing list, please print their name at the bottom of this form. In the event that you have moved, please fill in the updated information and return the form to Ms. Erin O'Sullivan, Publications Coordinator, One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to include them on this form.

ADDITIONAL MAILING LIST:

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City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

ADDRESS AS IT SHOULD APPEAR:

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Thank you for your cooperation and suggestions.

*Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108-1698*

FEB 14 1994

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AGENDA:

URBAN ISSUES

HARSHBARGER'S OFFICE AWARDS VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS TO NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

As part of an ongoing urban violence prevention effort, Attorney General Harshbarger recently established the Violence Prevention Community Grant Program. The Community Grants are funded by a portion of the monies the AG's office receives from the seizure of assets of convicted drug offenders. A portion of these revenues go back into our cities to help combat the serious problems illegal drugs cause in so many communities.

This year, community based programs in five cities were eligible to receive a grant of up to \$2,000 in forfeiture funds. In accordance with the provision of G.L. c. 94C, sec. 47, these grants were given to community based organizations whose mission is to provide drug education, rehabilitation, or substance abuse prevention, and neighborhood crime watch programs.

The recipients of this year's grants are:

BROCKTON FIGHTS BACK PARTNERSHIP

The Brockton Fights Back Partnership is a community coalition formed to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs and prevent substance abuse by addressing the conditions which contribute to these problems. The partnership has as its goal the development of strong community leadership and capability to address conditions such as high school drop out rates, poor employment opportunities for inner city youths, and domestic violence which lead to substance abuse among young people.

FITCHBURG SAFE & HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

Fitchburg Safe & Healthy Coalition has as its goal the development of healthy and safe neighborhoods through neighborhood empowerment. The Coalition organizes resources within the City of Fitchburg to plan, develop and sustain a community-wide partnership to support neighborhood associations addressing the causes and conditions of poverty, violence and substance abuse.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP/ NEUVA ESPERANZA

The Holyoke Community Partnership/Neuva Esperanza is implementing a comprehensive community empowerment approach to alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse (ATODA) prevention that is both self sustaining and informed by a multicultural perspective.

LAWRENCE ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT

The goal of the Lawrence Adolescent Violence Prevention Project is to strengthen the capacity of the community to prevent adolescent interpersonal violence. The Project provides staff, technical assistance and training to assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of community based coalitions and comprehensive prevention plans.

LYNN RECLAIM OUR COMMUNITY (ROC) PARTNERSHIP

The Reclaim Our Community (ROC) Partnership Program aims to reduce the level of drug and alcohol abuse in the City of Lynn by supporting community organizations, such as parent, civic and neighborhood organizations, and by promoting substance abuse prevention education.

AG AWARDS GRANT TO DARE SUMMER CAMP

Harshbarger awarded a \$1,000 grant to the DARE Summer Camp, which is jointly sponsored by the Governor's Alliance, the DARE Officers' Association, the National Parks Service and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

The program combined serious substance prevention education with summer fun by offering campers both intensive classroom instruction in the DARE curriculum and outdoor recreational activities. Teams of ten children were led by DARE-trained law enforcement officers from across Massachusetts. In addition to DARE officers from 30 Massachusetts

communities, instructors from the State Police, National Park Service and Drug Enforcement Administration took part. The groups taught key skills to Lowell and Lawrence youngsters between the ages of 8 and 10 in each one week session. A total of 250 young people participated in the camp which operated from August 9th through August 20th. The program was offered free of charge. Children were educated about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs, gang membership, violent acts and other illegal activities. The program was held at the University of Massachusetts - Lowell's South Campus.

Money awarded to DARE came from the AG's Violence Prevention Grant Program taken from the seizure of drug offenders' assets.

inside this issue...

AG	Community	Newsletter	Announcements
Activities 1-5	Programs 6-9	Contribution 9	10

To the Citizens of Massachusetts:

In the past few years life in the state of Massachusetts has, tragically, become more dangerous for many residents of our urban neighborhoods. Neighborhoods many of us grew up in and enjoyed as children are no longer safe and secure environments for today's young families. This sad reality demands not only our attention, but also a commitment of our time, energy, and expertise in order to reverse this distressing trend. We must dedicate ourselves to finding new and innovative ways of reducing the devastating level of violence which plagues many of our urban neighborhoods.

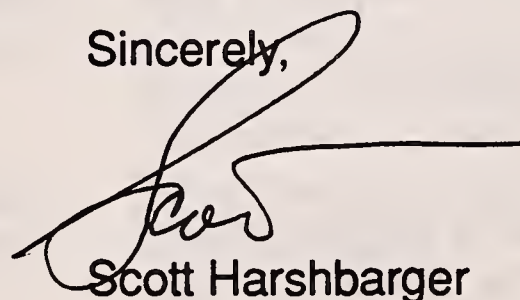
Community programs highlighted in this issue of AGenda: Urban Issues focus on the children in our urban areas and programs developed for their benefit. For example, Nantucket has developed a program to teach our children about abusive behavior, while in Salem a group has developed a Youth Outreach Program for recognizing and dealing with violent behavior. The Drumlin Farms Project continues to teach adolescents to accept responsibility by working on a community farm effort to feed the hungry.

The AG's office has joined in the fight to reclaim our cities by awarding violence prevention grants to community programs across the state. These programs focus on many of the most critical issues facing our urban areas including alcohol and drug abuse, adolescent interpersonal violence, and community violence.

The organizations highlighted in this issue are working together to improve conditions in our cities across the Commonwealth. These are excellent programs which should be replicated statewide. I urge all of you to share with one another your successes. AGenda: Urban Issues is the vehicle to do so. Please feel free to submit articles to my office for the next issue.

I hope you find this issue both interesting and informative. Thank you for your suggestions and comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Harshbarger

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE DEVELOPED IN DORCHESTER

On February 22, 1993, after many months of planning, the Massachusetts Attorney General, Suffolk County District Attorney, Boston Police Department and the City of Boston launched the Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) in the Dorchester community of Boston. SNI focuses increased law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts within a designated geographical area. The area designated for the project consists of the residential and business areas of Fields Corner, Bowdoin Street, Four Corners and Geneva Avenue bordered by Dorchester Avenue from Adams Street to Park Street, west on Park Street to Washington Street, north along Hancock Street to Columbia Road at Uphams Corner. This area was selected as the target area for SNI based on the high incidence of urban crime (gang-related violence and drug distribution), the capacity for coordination of investigative and prosecution efforts within one police district and district court, and the quality level of existing community-based programs and neighborhood crime watch groups.

SNI LAW ENFORCEMENT...

The primary objective of the law enforcement component of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative is to focus efforts on the swift prosecution of major felonies, gang-related violence, drug distribution and other crimes committed by career criminals. All arrests occurring within the designated area are screened by the SNI Unit within twenty-four hours of the defendant's arraignment. The Unit is notified of any major felony arrest or investigation prior to arraignment. Arrests are screened by the Unit for prosecution by means of direct indictment or at the district court level. The District Court staff is notified of any case that the Unit has accepted

for prosecution, and recommendations are made for those cases that are not accepted by the Unit that will remain in District Court.

Efforts are made to work closely with the Dorchester District Court Probation Department as well as the Probation Department in Superior Court to see that repeat offenders with any outstanding sentences are "surrendered" to probation or parole departments and to place first-time offenders on strict conditions of probation. The unit has also made attempts to focus prosecution efforts on reputed gang members regardless of the nature of the offense.

The Boston Police Department has increased police surveillance in certain trouble areas within the SNI target area, resulting in an increase in arrests for trespassing, disorderly conduct and drug offenses. The unit has also been represented at numerous neighborhood group meetings ranging from local business associations to crime-watch meetings.

In addition to the prosecutorial resources committed to the Initiative, other resources of the Office of the Attorney General have been utilized to support the efforts of the SNI. Some of these resources include ongoing AG projects regarding domestic violence, lead paint poisoning, urban environmental threats, building code enforcement and school based programs such as SCORE.

FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED TO SCORE

The Office of the Attorney General's SCORE program was the recent recipient of a \$75,000 grant award from the Massachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice (MCCJ), SCORE's first award of federal funds. The money will be used to expand the AG's school-based mediation services to four new schools: the Grover Cleveland Middle School in Dorchester; Haverhill High School; Taunton High School and Malden High School. As a result of the grant award, the SCORE program will increase its capacity to provide mediation services to Dorchester High School.

The SCORE program at the Grover Cleveland Middle School will be part of the Office of the Attorney General's Safe Neighborhood Initiative, (SNI), *see full description of SNI on page 4.*

The Office of the Attorney General will be providing additional funds to the four new schools. The MCCJ funds will enable the office to broaden its ability to provide school mediation services from a total of sixteen schools in the 1992/1993 school year to a total of twenty middle and high schools in the state for the 1993/1994 school year.

SCORE GRANT AWARDS . . .

In addition to the new federally funded programs, the AG's office is awarding a total of \$112,000 in grants for SCORE programs this school year. The following agencies will be receiving funds to provide SCORE programs for their schools:

Somerville Community Corporation for Somerville High School, Medford High School and Malden High School.

Brookline Community Mental Health Center for Brighton High School, English High School, Dorchester High School and the Grover Cleveland Middle School in Dorchester.

Community Action, Incorporated of Haverhill for Haverhill High School.

ComCare of Taunton and Fall River for Durfee High School in Fall River, Taunton High School and Dartmouth High School.

Worcester Community Action for Burncoat Senior High School in Worcester.

Middlesex Community College will be receiving a SCORE grant for Lowell High School.

Dispute Resolution Services of Springfield for two high schools and six middle schools in Springfield.

STUDENT MEDIATOR CONFERENCE . . .

The Office of the Attorney General will be sponsoring a statewide Student Mediator's Conference on November, 19, 1993, at Northeastern University in Burlington. The agenda for the day will consist of workshops and events geared for trained student mediators from grades 6-12 and school mediation coordinators. Student mediators from across the state are invited to attend. Workshops will deal with issues that student mediators face in school mediation, such as gangs, racial bias, sexual harassment, and other topics. A number of schools across Massachusetts have expressed interest in attending this conference.

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger will be the keynote speaker.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

PEACEFUL MOVEMENT COMMITTEE, INC.

Dorchester's Peaceful Movement Committee, Inc. (PMC) is a non-profit, community based corporation in operation since 1972. It provides a wide range of alcohol and substance abuse services, including counselling, case management, public education and prevention.

Licensed by the Department of Public Health as a Substance Abuse Outpatient Clinic, PMC receives funding from the Division of Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation of the Department of Public Health and from the Governor's Alliance.

The PMC seeks to provide services to those clients who have difficulty utilizing traditional service systems. The PMC actively reaches out to clients and provides services to them in their own homes, schools, housing projects, prisons and other settings.

PMC's YOUTH INTERVENTION...

PMC's Youth Intervention program is based in several inner city Boston schools and is designed to prevent substance abuse among young people and/or redirect their activities toward constructive and wholesome behavior. The program is short term and educational in orientation and serves high risk youth.

The eight week model helps students begin to understand the wide and pervasive nature of substance abuse and identify those who may seek treatment.

The Youth Intervention Programs focus on early detection and remedial action among persons identified through the school system, the family, the criminal justice system or other social systems. Program efforts are designed to identify youth who may be experiencing alcohol and other drug related problems, to assess the extent of those problems, and to refer these youth to the appropriate services to prevent development of additional problems.

The program targets youth whose alcohol and other drug use is on the continuum of risk

from experimentation to addiction, youth who come from families with alcohol and drug abuse histories, and youth in recovery.

Services are offered on site in schools, other youth agencies and community institutions, the courts and at the provider agency.

Basic Services Include:

- Outreach & Community Development
- Identification and Referral Training
- Assessment & Referral
- Short-term Psycho Education Intervention Groups
- Peer Support Groups
- Referral, Aftercare & Follow-up

For more information on the Peaceful Movement Committee, Inc., write to:

279 Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02124

or call:

(617)-436-3159

DRUMLIN FARMS FOOD PROJECT ...UPDATE

The 1993 growing season started off with a pleasant surprise and a new collaboration for the Project. Drumlin Farms was one of sixteen community service groups nationwide selected by the Commission on National and Community Service to receive a \$10,000 grant which was used to support one half of the summer stipends. The other half of the stipend is supported by the Boston Youth Clean-up Corp of Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The Boston Clean-up Corp chose Drumlin Farms because of the enriching opportunities it provides Boston youth.

The busy summer season has drawn to a close and a hectic harvesting season of September and October is here. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to harvest the vegetables for the hungry. This fall teens will be paid to lead groups in harvesting. This leadership opportunity began August 31st when three of the 14 to 16 year old summer participants led fifteen Boston University Freshmen through a week of the program. The harvest program will end with a fundraiser on October 2nd called a "Pick-a-Thon." The "Pick-a-Thon" is an opportunity to harvest squash and potatoes for the hungry and collect pledges for their program.

There is a conscious effort throughout all of this activity to provide a safe environment for a diverse group of teens to meet and work together for a common goal. They are in a structured environment with very clear expectations. For some, it is the first time that they have to put aside their "street" behavior and attitudes and learn about appropriate job behavior.

For more information on the Drumlin Farms Food Project, contact:

Drumlin Farms Food Project
Mass. Audubon Society
South Great Road
Lincoln, MA 01773

or call:

(617)-259-8621

HELP FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

Statistics support our worst fears as we read, and hear almost daily, increasing incidences of domestic violence. In 1989 and 1990 a woman was murdered by a husband or boyfriend in

Massachusetts every 22 days; in 1991 one woman was killed every 16 days. According to the Massachusetts Coalition for Battered Women, in 1992 a woman or child was murdered every 7 days.

Salem's Help for Abused Women and their Children (HAWC) was established in 1979 as a result of the work of a community task force of persons deeply concerned with the growing problem of battered women. The agency provides comprehensive services to residents of the 23 cities and towns which comprise the North Shore. Those services include a 16-room shelter, 24-hour crisis line staffed by more than 90 community volunteers, as well as an array of counselling and support services including trained legal representatives to accompany women to five district courts on the north shore.

One service HAWC provides is the Youth Outreach Program. It provides preventative education on dating violence to middle and high school students.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM...

The Youth Outreach Program is the only comprehensive project on the North Shore which deals specifically with the problem of teen dating violence. During the 1992-93 school year, Youth Outreach Coordinator, Julie

Shapiro presented HAWC's preventative education curriculum to 3,402 students in 34 schools and youth programs. Ms. Shapiro also conducted workshops and presentations on domestic violence and teen dating violence for 635 adults, including human service professionals, teachers, parents, and members of community organizations. In addition she conducted in-depth training with 138 teachers and youth workers.

Many of the exercises in HAWC's Youth Outreach Program curriculum were adapted from the Dating Violence Intervention Project in Cambridge and can be easily expanded or adapted to meet the needs of a particular school or youth program. The curriculum is highly interactive; throughout the presentation, students are encouraged to express their opinions and ask questions.

During the first part of the curriculum, Ms. Shapiro works with students to develop definitions of abusive and respectful behavior. Students brainstorm lists of the different kinds of abuse, including verbal, mental, physical, sexual, and child abuse. The goal is to help students understand abuse in its broadest sense and to recognize it in their own lives. Students are also asked to think about the ways in which they would like to be treated in relationships.

In the second part of the curriculum students are given the opportunity to examine some of the myths and stereotypes about dating violence and family violence. Students are asked their opinions about a variety of statements pertaining to the causes and consequences of abuse. They are given the opportunity to debate the issues and are then given factual information to help clarify their knowledge of the topics. An optional second part for psychology or child development classes is an exercise of the effects of domestic violence on children.

The third part of the curriculum addresses sex role stereotypes. In this unit the coordinator works to break down societal stereotypes about women and men and to talk about issues of power and control in relationships. Magazine ads are used to illustrate ways in which the media shapes societal attitudes and contributes to the problem of violence against women. An optional third activity is an "Ideal Date Debate," during which the young men and women split into separate groups and work together to come up with a description of their ideal date. The students have the opportunity to debate issues having to do with dating including different expectations, sexual decision-making, and the meaning of respect.

For further information, or to set up a training, please contact:

Julie Shapiro, Youth Outreach Coordinator
Help for Abused Women & their Children
 27 Congress Street
 Salem, MA 01970

or call:

(508)744-8552

A SAFE PLACE, INC.

On the small island of Nantucket, thirty miles out to sea, there is an organization whose name, people say, has become a household word: A Safe Place.

Six years ago, members of the Nantucket Women's Bar Association saw a need for services to victims of domestic violence and they did something about it by establishing an agency, A Safe Place.

At its inception the agency was completely staffed by volunteers and although A Safe Place now has a paid staff of four, the devotion, commitment, and time of its volunteer staff remain essential to its existence and vitality.

A Safe Place provides victims of domestic violence a 24-hour/365-days-a-year direct access hot line, crisis counselling, referrals and information. Back-up services to the hotline include accompaniment to legal, medical, and police services; placement in a "safe home"; and transportation off the island, if needed. Support to/and advocacy for victims while in crisis is extended to survivors through individual appointments and/or support groups as they attempt to rebuild their lives.

The emphasis of the programs and services of A Safe Place is empowerment of individuals and the education of the community about a constellation of issues: domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual and physical abuse of children, teen violence, and sexual harassment.

At least two times each school year, A Safe Place offers varied, age-appropriate, informative programs in every classroom, K-12, in the local public school system. In addition, programs are provided to four of the island's five or six pre-schools and to a small private school. In non-threatening, interesting ways young children learn about issues such as sexual abuse by persons known to them. Older students deal with issues that run the gamut from relatively innocent problems of youth to date rape. A Safe Place's prevention/education programs are also provided to teachers, parents,

and other specific adult audiences through training, workshops, public forums, video viewing and discussions, and its frequent use of the island's newspapers to raise the community's awareness.

In a country where much needs to be done to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, violence among teens, and the sexual and physical abuse of children, Nantucket has taken to heart the motto of one of its most visible social agencies, A Safe Place: "Every Home Should Be a Safe Place".

For further information regarding A Safe Place, write to:

A Safe Place
PO Box 3231
Nantucket Commons
Nantucket, MA 02584

or call:

508-228-0561

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

The Attorney General's office hopes this newsletter is both informative and useful. The success of the newsletter depends upon your input. We must join together to combat the problems in our urban areas. We hope to highlight several community programs from around the state in the next issue. If you have an article or information you would like included in our next edition, the deadline for submission is December 15, 1993. Contributions to the newsletter can be forwarded to Erin O'Sullivan, Publications Coordinator, Attorney General's office, One Ashburton Place, 20th floor, Boston, MA 02108.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 21, 1993 -

ELDER CONSUMER AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, September 21st, 8:30am - 1:00pm

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Auditorium, Boston, MA

Reservations: Sheila Martin (617)727-2200

Admission: Free

Audience: Public Welcome

October 6, 1993 -

MUNICIPAL FORUM

Wednesday, October 6th, 7:30am - 1:00pm

Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

Reservations: Sheila Martin (617)727-2200

Admission: \$30.00

Audience: Municipal Officials

November 19, 1993 -

STUDENT MEDIATOR CONFERENCE

Friday, November 19th, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Northeastern University, Burlington Campus, Burlington, MA

Reservations: Sandra Washburn/Kathy Grant (617)727-2200

Admission: TBA

Audience: School Mediation Teams

November 30, 1993 -

POLICE CHIEFS ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 30th, 8:30am - 1:00pm

Bentley College, Waltham, MA

Reservations: Sheila Martin (617)727-2200

Admission: Free

Audience: Police Chiefs Only

AGENDA: URBAN ISSUES

We hope you enjoyed the latest issue of Attorney General Scott Harshbarger's URBAN ISSUES NEWSLETTER. If you know someone we have overlooked on our mailing list, please add the name at the bottom of this form. In the event that you have moved, please fill in the updated information and mail this form back to Ms. Erin O'Sullivan, Publications Coordinator, One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to include them on this form, and return it to the Attorney General's office.

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Thank you for your cooperation and suggestions.

(Please do not cut this sheet)

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One Ashburton Place
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